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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**No Ruffled Feathers at Victorian Duck Season Opening**

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) today praised wildlife officers, police, media, and hunters for ensuring that the 2006 Victorian duck season opened without incident.

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) officials report that they are pleased with the standard of hunter behaviour overall.

“Hunting is an internationally recognised component of ecosystem preservation. The majority of Victorians, including the Bracks Government, clearly appreciate the importance of sustainable wildlife use in conservation strategies,” said WiSH Chairwoman Ms Samara McPhedran.

Victorian duck hunter numbers are increasing steadily after declines in the 1990’s. Traditionally, only a small percentage of duck hunters attend opening weekend.

Ms McPhedran explained that “The women who support WiSH don’t appreciate being verbally and physically threatened by angry people who seek to ban hunting for ideological reasons.”

“Protester numbers were low today, suggesting that Victorians do not oppose carefully regulated duck harvesting with seasons and limits based upon comprehensive scientific review,” finished Ms McPhedran.

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**[www.ic-wish.org](http://www.ic-wish.org)**

**WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE**